

MICROBIOLOGY CLIENT SERVICES MANUAL
Utah Public Health Laboratory

LAB TEST – Molecular Biology Section

TEST	<i>Bordetella pertussis</i> PCR (pertussis, whooping cough) See also Bacteriology section.
METHOD	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
AVAILABLE	All clients
PATIENT PREP	Best if collected following a coughing spasm
SPECIMEN	Nasopharyngeal swab, aspirate, or washing
COLLECT IN	Cotton or dacron swab = sterile tube Fluids = sterile, screw capped container
PROCESSING	Do not place swabs in transport media, send dry or in saline. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or charcoal based medium.
TRANSPORT	Keep at 2 – 8 degrees C
TIME CRITICAL	Must be received in our lab within 48 hrs of collection
LABEL	Patient's full name or unique ID number, date of collection, and "PCR pertussis"
REQUISITION	Bacteriology/Bioterrorism/Molecular Diagnostics/TB Test Request Form (see form in Appendix B).
TEST COMPLETE	24 hrs after receipt in our lab
RESULTS	Positive or negative for <i>Bordetella pertussis</i>
REPORTED	Positive results are phoned to client; all results are mailed, e-mailed, or faxed, as established with the provider
NOTE	Throat and nasal swabs are unacceptable samples
CONTACT	(801)584-8449: Jana Coombs or Kim Christensen.